

Wilderness Review Checklist for Oil and Gas Lease Parcels

Sec. 603 (43 USC 1782). The Wilderness Act states:

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”

“The word ‘roadless’ refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. A ‘way’ maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.”

Lease Parcel WYW-1505-	More than 5000 of roadless land (yes/no)	Imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable (yes/no)	Outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation (yes/no)	Contains natural features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value (yes/no)	In Citizen Proposed Wilderness Area (yes/no. If yes but dropped during RMP process, state why)
001	No				No
002	No				No
003	No				No
007	No				No
018	No				No
027	No				No
028	Yes	No			No
029	Yes	No			No
030	Yes	No			No
031	Yes	No			No
032	Yes	No			No
033	Yes	No			No
034	Yes	No			No
035	Yes	No			No
036	Yes	No			No
042	Yes	No			No
046	No				No
047	No				No

Lease Parcel WYW-1505-	More than 5000 of roadless land (yes/no)	Imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable (yes/no)	Outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation (yes/no)	Contains natural features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value (yes/no)	In Citizen Proposed Wilderness Area (yes/no. If yes but dropped during RMP process, state why)
048	No				No
049	No				No
050	Yes	No			No
051	Yes	No			No
055	No				No
056	No				No
057	No				No
058	Yes	No			No
059	Yes	No			No
063	No				No
067	No				No
068	No				No
071	Yes	No			Yes, because BLM found the lands to be unmanageable for wilderness character because of preexisting oil and gas leases, the BLM elected to manage lands with wilderness character for multiple use and not for protection of wilderness character.
072	No				No
073	No				No
074	No				No
075	No				No

1 "The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. A 'way' maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

2 Examples of manmade features that may be considered substantially unnoticeable in certain cases are: trails, trail signs, bridges, fire towers, fire breaks, fire suppression facilities, pit toilets, fisheries enhancement facilities, fire rings, hitching posts, snow gauges, water quantity and quality measuring devices, research monitoring markers and devices, radio repeater sites, air quality monitoring devices, fencing, spring developments, overgrown and barely visible two-track ways, and small reservoirs.

NOTES: